

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05517 131921Z

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SUBJ: DECLARATION ON BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS ISSUED BY INTERNATIONAL
OBSERVERS

REF: LA PAZ 5450

1. BELOW IS A TRANSLATION OF THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT
ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS (REFTEL).

2. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF OBSERVERS OF THE ELECTIONS
OF JULY 9 - MADE UP ON REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS: LORD ERIK AVEBURY, WHO REPRESENTS THE CATHOLIC
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (CIIR); MARTIN KRIELE, WHO
REPRESENTS THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES; WILSON BOOTS, WHO REPRESENTS
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN THE US; JORGE CUISANA,
WHO REPRESENTS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN
CENTRAL OF WORKERS (CLAT); LENNART ASPEGREN, WHO REPRESENTS
THE CHURCHES OF SWEDEN; ROBERT K. GOLDMAN, WHO REPRESENTS THE
WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA (WOLA) IN THE US; LUIS
HERNANDEZ, WHO REPRESENTS THE LABOR COUNCIL OF ANDEAN WORKERS
(CSTA); GUILLERMO GALEOTE, WHO REPRESENTS THE SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL; DR. LISANDRO MARTINEZ ZUNIGA, WHO REPRESENTS
THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC JURISTS--INVITED
BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF BOLIVIA (PAHR),
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05517 131921Z

IN ITS WORK OF OBSERVATION HAS CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING FACTS.

3. FIRST--WITH RESPECT TO THE ELECTORAL LAW--NUMEROUS GAPS WERE
BOSERVED WHICH LIMIT THE FREE EXPRESSION AND SOVEREIGNTY OF
THE PEOPLE. BASICALLY, THE DECREES WHICH REFORM THE SAID
ELECTORAL LAW ARE INADEQUATE, IN THAT VERGING ON BEING AN
IMPORTANT LEGAL ANOMALY, THEY DESTROY THE UNITY OF THE LAW AND

SUPPRESS THE GUARANTEES THAT ARE CONTAINED IN THE SAME LAW. TO SUPPORT THE FOREGOING WE MENTION THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES: A) THE NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COURT; B) THE PROHIBITION AGAINST LABOR LEADERS SEEKING ELECTIVE OFFICE; C) THE USE OF MULTIPLE BALLOTS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THEIR DISTRIBUTION. ACCORDING TO OUR CRITERIA THEY SHOULD USE THE PROCEDURE OF A SINGLE BALLOT AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS DISTRIBUTION SHOULD FALL ON THE ELECTORAL COURTS THEMSELVES. D) THE NON-APPLICATION OF A SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ELIMINATES THE POSSIBILITY FOR DEMOCRATIC EXPRESSION FOR ALL THE MINORITIES.

4. SECOND--WITH RESPECT TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS CERTAIN IRREGULARITIES HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AND IT IS NECESSARY TO ENUMERATE THEM IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE FUTURE, AS AN INDISPENSABLE REQUIREMENT FOR THE FULL DEMOCRATIC EXPRESSION OF THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE. A) THE ABSENCE OF EQUALITY FOR ALL THE POLITICAL GROUPS IN ACCESS TO THE COMMUNICATION MEDIA, PRINCIPALLY TELEVISION. B) SIMILARLY THROUGHOUT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS THE DISORGANIZATION OF CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DUE TO THE MANY YEARS THEIR HAVING BEEN ILLEGAL AND HAVING BEEN PERSECUTED AND BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO REORGANIZE IN ORDER TO FACE WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITY THIS IMPORTANT ELECTORAL PROCESS. C) MANY DENUNCIATIONS IN REFERENCE TO THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE AUTHORITIES TO ONE CERTAIN CANDIDATE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. IN THIS REGARD IT WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 05517 131921Z

APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC OPINION TO KNOW THE LEVEL OF SPENDING OF THE DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPS. D) FINALLY, IRREGULARITIES IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, PRINCIPALLY IN THE ACCURACY (DEPURACION) OF THESE REGISTERS FOLLOWING THE SUPPRESSION OF THE BULLETIN PROVIDED FOR IN THE ELECTORAL LAW.

5. THIRD--DURING ELECTION DAY THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS HAVE RECEIVED DIRECT AND RELIABLE TESTIMONY OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS. A) TRANSPORTATION OF VOTERS IN OFFICIAL VEHICLES IN VIOLATION OF THE ELECTORAL LAW. B) ABSENCE OF BALLOTS OF CERTAIN CANDIDATES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME A MORE THAN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF GREEN BALLOTS WAS OBSERVED. C) A MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE VOTING STATIONS. SIMILARLY THE ENTRANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE UNP IN THE CONFIDENTIAL VOTING SECTIONS OF THE VOTING STATIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SECRET BALLOT. D) VIOLENT ACTIONS: ASSASSINATIONS, ATTACKS, INTIMIDATIONS AND THREATS OF REPRESSION DURING THE ELECTION PROCESS AGAINST MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR FAMILIES. E) ILLEGAL SEIZURE OF ELECTION BOXES BY (PERSONS IN) OFFICIAL VEHICLES, BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN SCRUTINIZED AND WHOSE DESTINATION REMAINS UNKNOWN.

6. FOURTH--THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESS
THEIR ADMIRATION FOR THE GREAT POLITICAL MATURITY OF THE
BOLIVIAN PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING TO INSCRIBE BOLIVIA IN THE
DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM THAT MUST PREVAIL IN LATIN AMERICA; AND
THEY EXPRESS AS WELL THEIR CONCERN OVER THE INDICATIONS THAT
EXIST AT THIS TIME OF DISREGARDING THE ELECTION RESULT.
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